



BOROUGH OF WELSHPOOL

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# ANNUAL REPORT



of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1954

by

JOHN SLEIGH,

M.B., Ch.B. (U. Aberd.), D.P.H. (U. Edin.).

# **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

## **CHAIRMAN:**

Councillor W. Richards.

## **MEMBERS:**

Aldermen W. C. Ainge, T. A. Clemson, T. Gittins. W. R. Humphreys; Councillors S. H. Bagshaw (Mayor), H. Blockley, R. Cowey, B. E. Davies, J. H. Emberton, G. C. E. Jones, N. Lambert, J. H. Lloyd, C. S. Thomas, R. P. Turner. W. H. Watson.

## **TOWN CLERK:**

J. Ben Davies.

## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:**

John Sleigh, M.B., Ch.B. (U. Aberd.), D.P.H. (U. Edin.).

## **BOROUGH SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR:**

F. A. Lodge. A.R.I.C.S., M.S.I.A., Cert. (Meat & Foods).

## **To the Mayor and Members of the Welshpool Borough Council**

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year 1954.

As I was Medical Officer of Health for the last three months of the year only I have confined myself in the

report largely to statistical material only. I hope however that this material may be of some interest and possibly value.

I am indebted to Mr. F. A. Lodge, A.R.I.C.S., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector for his assistance in the preparation of the report.

I have the honour to be

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN SLEIGH.

### SECTION 'A'

#### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	20,427
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	...	...	6,010
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	1,887
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£33,003
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£138

### POPULATION

The mid 1954 population estimate of 6,010 represents

a fall of 0.4% from the 1951 census population of 6,034 which represented a rise of 7.0% from the 1931 census population of 5,639.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Welshpool	England and
M.B. 1954	Wales 1953
Rates per	Home
1,000	Population

### BIRTHS

Live Births	...	...	...	15.8	15.5
Still Births	...	..	...	0.33	0.35
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				20.6(a)	22.4(a)
				<hr/>	<hr/>

### DEATHS

All Causes	...	...	...	11.8	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid				0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...		0.00	0.01
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis		...	...	0.17	0.20
Influenza	...	...	...	0.00	0.16
Smallpox	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including					
Polioencephalitis		...		0.00	0.01

Pneumonia	...	...	0.50	0.55
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## NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)

Typhoid Fever	...	...	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	0.00	0.01
Meningococcal infection	...	...	0.00	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...	0.00	1.39
Whooping Cough	...	...	0.00	3.58
Diphtheria	...	...	0.00	0.01
Erysipelas	...	...	0.00	0.14
Smallpox	...	...	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	...	0.00	12.36
Pneumonia	...	...	0.33	0.84
Acute Poliomyelitis (including				
Polioencephalitis	...	...	0.00	0.07
Non-Paralytic	...	...	0.00	0.04
Food Poisoning	...	...	0.00	0.24
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	0.00(a)	18.23(a)

## DEATHS

	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
All causes under 1 year of age	21.1	26.8
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under		
2 years of age	...	1.1

(a) Per 1,000 Total—Live and Still Births

## BIRTH RATE

The Birth Rate for 1954 (15.8 per 1,000) was 0.3 per 1,000 above that for England and Wales for 1953 (15.5 per 1,000). If the rate is standerdised to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in the Borough of Welshpol as compared with that in England and Wales it is reduced to 15.2 per 1,000.

## DEATH RATE

The Death Rate for 1954 (11.8 per 1,000) was 0.4 per 1,000 above that for England and Wales for 1953 (11.4 per 1,000). If the rate is standerdised to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in the Borough of Welshpool as compared wiith that in England and Wales it is reduced to 11.3 per 1,000.

It is regretted that it is not possible to give the figures for 1954 for England and Wales either in the two paragraphs above or in the table which precedes them, as the Registrar General has ceased to supply these. For this year only the figures for England and Wales for the previous year are sufficiently contemporary to be used for comparison, but in the future such comparison will no longer be possible.

## LIVE BIRTHS

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	42	49	91
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	1	4
Total	..	...	...	45	50	95

## STILL BIRTHS

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	.	...	...	—	—	—
				—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	1	1	2
				—	—	—

## DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	...	...	2	—	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				—	—	—
Total	..	...	...	2	—	2
				—	—	—

## DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				—	—	—
Total	..	..	...	1	—	1
				—	—	—

## DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection - ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ...	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Other infective and parasite diseases ... ..	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchal ... ..	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	2	—	2
Lenkalmia, alenkalmia ...	—	—	—
Diabetes ... ..	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	3	7	10
Coronary diseases, angina ...	10	7	17
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	—	—	—
Other heart diseases ... ..	7	6	13
Other circulatory diseases ...	1	3	4
Influenza .. ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	1	2	3



	Male	Female	Total
Bronchitis ... ..	—	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum ... ..	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea ... ..	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. ...	3	2	5
Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	1	1
All other accidents ... ..	2	—	2
Suicide ... ..	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	—
	—	—	—
All causes ... ..	36	35	71
	—	—	—

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No action has been taken by the Council under this Section.

## FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

No outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during 1954.

## SECTION 'B'

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

#### LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PART III

Charge of duties under Sections 22 (Care of Mothers and Young Children) 23 (Midwives) 24 (Health Visitors) 25 (Home Nursing) 26 (Vaccination and Immunisation) 27 (Ambulances) 28 (Prevention of Illness, Care, and After-Care) and 29 (Domestic Help) remains with the County Medical Officer.

## SECTION 'F'

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases. Final numbers according to sex and age after corrections of cases of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year ended 31st December, 1954.

		Acute Pneumonia		
		Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	... ..	—	—	—
5—14 years	... ..	—	—	—
15—44 years	... ..	—	—	—
45—64 years	... ..	1	—	1
65 and over	... ..	1	—	1
Age unknown	... ..	—	—	—
		—	—	—
Total (all ages)	.. ...	2	—	2

		Tuberculosis Meninges and								
		Respiratory			C.N.S.			Other		
		Fem-			Fem-			Fem-		
		Male	ale	Total	Male	ale	Total	Male	ale	Total
Under 5										
years		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years		—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 years		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64 years		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age										
unknown		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		<hr/>								
Total										
(all ages)		—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
		<hr/>								

Puerperal Pyrexia—Female—1.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases						Deaths					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—

Number of Cases on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1954 (31st December, 1953 in brackets)

			Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	..		21 (24)	16 (15)	37 (39)
Non-Respiratory			4 (6)	3 (5)	7 (11)
Total	...	..	25 (30)	18 (20)	44 (50)

## 1. WATER

## TOWN SUPPLY.

(a) Rainfall figures for the year:—

January	1.91	July	2.38
February	3.30	August	3.77
March	2.32	September	3.23
April	0.85	October	5.45
May	3.16	November	6.34
June	4.39	December	3.67

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Total for year 40.77 inches

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This compares with 28.47 in 1953 and 33.63 in 1952.

- (b) Minimum supply to reservoirs was 118,454 gallons recorded on 2nd August. Minimum waste line was 1,600 gallons per hour. Average consumption was 100,000 gallons per day.
- (c) 10 Council houses were connected to the town's supply during the year.
- (d) The connections to the town supply are as follows:—
- 1,339 houses, 189 Other properties, 1 farm, 2 small holdings, 3 drinking troughs.

## GUILDSFIELD AND GROES.

This district is now supplied with water from the Trinity Well Scheme and properties in the area have

been included in the figures for Trinity Well. The lease on the existing supply was renewed during the year and will be used during emergencies. No emergency arose during the year.

#### TREWERN WATER SUPPLY.

This district is supplied with water from the Gelli Springs and continues to operate independently though the undertaking is connected to the Trinity Well Scheme for use during emergencies. No emergency arose during the year. The total number of properties now supplied from this source is as follows:— 11 farms, 2 drinking troughs, 1 other property, 70 dwellings, 1 standpipe.

#### CASTLE CAEREINION WATER SUPPLY.

The total number of properties now supplied is as follows:— 1 farm, 2 small holdings, 18 dwellings, 2 other properties. Electricity has been installed in the pump house but the pumping has not been electrified.

#### TRINITY WELL WATER SCHEME.

This scheme together with its supplementary schemes is now completed though consent has been received for exploiting more supplies of water in the Welsh Harp Hollow and this will be carried out during 1955.

At the end of the year the following properties were receiving supplies of water from the Trinity Well source:— 266 houses, 32 farms, including farmhouses,

2 schools, 1 hospital, 7 other properties, 53 drinking troughs (not metered) and 13 standpipes. The daily consumption is 48,000 gallons.

Work has commenced at Pool Quay in the Llanfyllin Rural District on a scheme which is to be supplied from this source and for which a further 10,000 gallons per day is required.

#### LONG MOUNTAIN WATER SCHEME.

This scheme has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and grants have been promised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council. Negotiations are proceeding by the District Valuer for the acquisition of the water rights and the necessary land.

#### SAMPLES.

During the year 120 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological analysis, the results being as follows:—

##### TOWN SUPPLY

30	Class	1
1	„	4

##### TRINITY WELL

24	Class	1
1	„	4

##### CASTLE CAEREINION

19	Class	1
1	„	2

##### GELLI

17	Class	1
3	„	2
1	„	3

## PRIVATE

1	Class	3
1	,,	4

## MULSOP

1	Class	3
1	,,	4

## BRUNANT

1	Class	1
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## HELDRE

8	Class	1
2	,,	2

## WELSH HARP

3	,,	3
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1	Class	4
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4	,,	4
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## 2. FOOD

156 certificates in respect of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption were issued in 1954 as against 240 certificates in 1953.

Summary of food condemned is as follows:—

496 tins food and milk	432 lbs. Pork
2 small Boards Grapes	143 lbs. Beef
24 lbs. Flour	71 lbs. Bacon
195 lbs. Cooked Ham	5 lbs. Sausage

## ICE CREAM.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district. Two applications for registration of premises from retailers were granted making a total of 21 in the Borough.



## FOOD CLEANLINESS.

12 inspections were made during the year to ensure compliance with the Council's Bye-laws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Government control of slaughtering ceased on the 29th June, 1954 and it was necessary to assist in the difficult period of changing over. Two slaughterhouses were re-registered. One place was adapted and made suitable for slaughtering and a temporary licence granted.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

Since the commencement of private slaughtering the following carcasses were inspected:—

Bullocks	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
18	9	14	320	475

## CARCASSES CONDEMNED

(All diseases except Tuberculosis).

Bullocks	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs ...
Nil	Nil	1	2	2

No whole carcasses were condemned for Tuberculosis.

### 3. SEWERAGE

#### TOWN.

10 Council houses have been connected to the Sewer during the year. Discharge of sewage is into the River Severn.

#### GUILSFIELD.

This village is sewered on the combined system to a new disposal plant which is maintained in good order and gives little trouble.

#### TREWERN.

The Council's Housing estate is sewered on the separate system, the sewage being treated at a new sewage disposal plant, which is maintained in good order. A further 17 houses are to be built on the same site and this will necessitate the construction of an additional filter.

#### CASTLE CAEREINION.

The village is sewered on the combined system to an unsatisfactory Disposal plant. Schemes have been prepared for the siting of an entirely new plant and agreement is being sought with the owner of land for a convenient site.

#### POOL QUAY.

The disposal plant for this village is maintained in good order and gives no trouble.

#### 4. DRAINAGE

All drains laid, other than Council houses, were tested by the Department.

#### 5. SANITARY INSPECTIONS

1. Informal notice was served during the year requiring attention to defective W.C. This was complied with.

2. Informal notices were served concerning blocked drains. 106 blocked drains were dealt with without the serving of any notices.

#### 6. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The total number of factories on the Register is 43. During the year 10 inspections were made. There were no prosecutions.

#### 7. DISINFECTIONS

Following outbreaks of infectious disease 2 houses were disinfected.

#### 8. VERMINOUS PREMISES

Five houses suspected of being in a verminous condition were disinfested.

## 9. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The arrangements for dealing with Rodent destruction were continued and the results were as follows:—

2 warehouses have been inspected, one of which has been treated with satisfactory results. The refuse tip was treated on 5 occasions, the average kill being 330 per treatment. The town sewers were treated on two occasions, the first resulting in 13 poison 'takes' and 11 poison 'takes' on the second. 4 school canteens have been inspected, two of which have been treated with satisfactory results.

The total baits laid in the Borough was 3,241.

Poison taken amounted to 6,095 ozs.

132 private houses in the Borough were treated.

The Smithfield has been treated on two occasions.

## 10. HOUSE REFUSE

Weekly refuse collections take place from all houses in the town, all villages in the Borough and all houses en route. Disposal is by controlled tipping on waste land conveniently situate half a mile from the town centre.

## 11. SHOPS AND OFFICES

The provisions of the Shops Act were complied with and no court action was found necessary.

## 12. HOUSING

## HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

By Local Authority ... ..	10
By private enterprise ... ..	3

## HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT END OF YEAR.

By Local Authority ... ..	15
By private enterprise ... ..	4

Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of year	231
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## HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS.

This work is at present being carried out by the County Council but arrangements are in hand for the duties to be returned to the Borough Council. The number of grants promised on which work is proceeding—2.

## HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority Officers—2.

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

Proceedings under Section II P.H. Act, 1936	
Total number of houses dealt with	—1
No of houses which are in Confined Clearance Orders and still occupied	49

COUNTY TIMES PRESS, WELSHPOOL